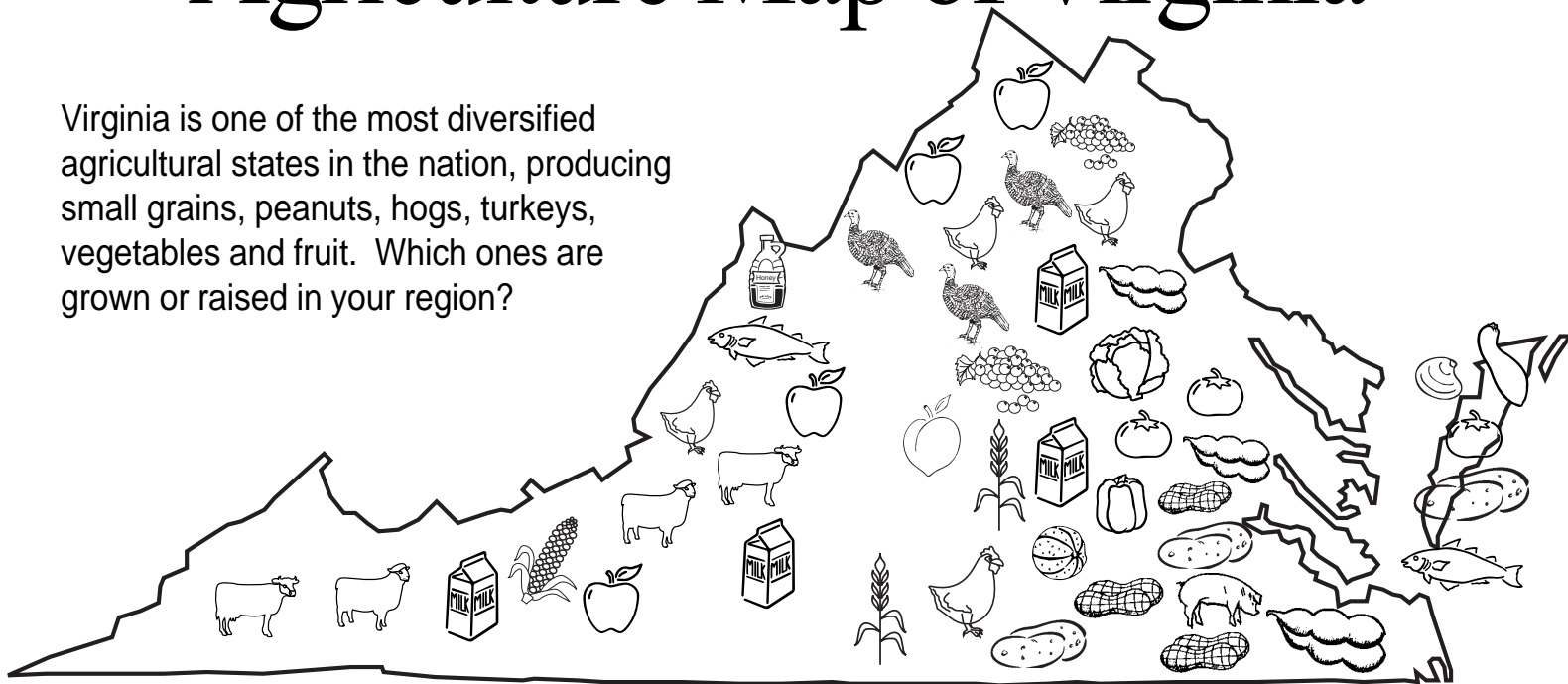


Agriculture Map of Virginia

Virginia is one of the most diversified agricultural states in the nation, producing small grains, peanuts, hogs, turkeys, vegetables and fruit. Which ones are grown or raised in your region?



Ag Facts



- Apples** Virginia grows 12 different varieties of apples. Four of them are Red Delicious, Ginger Gold, York, and Granny Smith.
- Corn** Virginia yellow corn is used mainly to feed livestock and poultry, although some farmers grow sweet corn, the kind you eat on the cob.
- Eggs** Chickens in Virginia lay a lot of eggs. Even though eggs are available in the dairy case of your supermarket, they are a protein food like meat, not a dairy product.
- Hogs** Virginia hams and pork products are famous around the world.
- Milk** Virginia has many dairy farms. Milk from these cows is used to drink or to make into ice cream, butter, cheese, or yogurt.
- Peanuts** Virginia peanuts are among the finest in the world. Some people call them the Cadillacs of peanuts.
- Potatoes** More than $\frac{1}{3}$ of Virginia's potato crop is used for potato chips.
- Soybeans** Soybeans are used for oil, animal feed, ink, crayons, and as a source of protein in many foods.
- Tomatoes** People up and down the East Coast enjoy plump, juicy, fresh Virginia tomatoes; people all over the country enjoy them as tomato juice, catsup, or canned tomatoes.
- Turkey** Rockingham County is known as the Turkey Capitol of the World, because they raise more turkeys there than any other region.
- Wheat** Winter wheat thrives in Virginia and is sold to flour mills throughout the East Coast. You may eat Virginia wheat as bread or rolls, or in pasta.

There are many other Virginia foods: cantaloupes, chickens, beef, seafood, peaches, honey, broccoli, cherries, cucumbers, grapes, lima beans, pears, pecans, pumpkins, strawberries, and sweet peppers; as well as Virginia agricultural products that we don't eat: horses, cotton, wool, lumber and wood products, tobacco, nursery crops, rabbits, and honey bees.

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Top Virginia Ag Products

Below are some of Virginia's top agricultural products, matched with their annual contribution in 1998 to the state's economy. To determine which Virginia product contributes the most, list the products in order of their contributions from greatest to smallest.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____



Milk, Wholesale
\$296 Million



Corn for Grain
\$45 Million



Peanuts
\$53 Million



Tobacco
\$178 Million



Cattle & Calves
\$294 Million



Fresh Market
Tomatoes
\$40 Million



Soybeans
\$63 Million



Hogs \$51 Million



Turkeys
\$207 Million



Eggs \$66 Million



Winter Wheat
\$32 Million



Broilers
\$486 Million

Virginia Soil

Without soil, life as we know it would not exist. We could not grow crops for food to eat or to feed to our livestock. We could not grow the trees needed to build houses. Soil is an important part of life, so important that most states have a state soil just as they have a state song or tree and flower.

Virginia is unlike other states. It covers 450 miles and has many different kinds of land, from Atlantic Ocean coastline to mountains. One river, the James, crosses the entire state and carries soil from all areas, which it deposits on what is called the flood plains, low-lying areas. This is where Virginia's state soil comes from. That soil is called Pamunkey soil, which is named for the Pamunkey River, which in turn was named after an Indian tribe that lives along the river to this day.

Pamunkey soil has a colorful history. The Indians farmed it, and the first settlers at Jamestown planted their crops in Pamunkey soil. It was of such a fine quality, the Jamestown colonists survived when many other colonies did not. You could say Pamunkey soil was responsible for the birth of the United States. The area is where the famous Indian maiden, Pocahontas, lived. She grew her food in Pamunkey soil.

Most of the areas of Virginia with Pamunkey soil are cultivated, which means they are used for farming. The rest are used for pasture and forest land. Crops that grow well in Pamunkey soil include corn, small grains, cotton, soybeans, alfalfa, peanuts, tobacco and many of the vegetables you see every night on your dinner table.